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## INDEPENDENT ARBITRATOR IMPOSES SANCTION ON ANDREW STARYKOWICZ FOLLOWING VIOLATION OF IRONMAN ANTI-DOPING RULES

**TAMPA, Fla.** (November 25, 2020) – Today, the IRONMAN® Anti-Doping Program announced that an independent arbitrator has rendered a decision and determined that U.S. professional athlete, Andrew Starykowicz committed an anti-doping rule violation. The resulting sanction includes a period of ineligibility that had commenced on December 5, 2019 and will end on January 1, 2021. This decision comes after the facts of the case were presented and fully argued at an evidentiary hearing.

The case was heard, and the decision rendered by Mark Muedeking, the arbitrator appointed by Richard H. McLaren, chief arbitrator from McLaren Global Sport Solutions, Inc. (MGSS) which independently administers the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Panel and arbitration process. The MGSS Arbitrator's Award can be found [here](#).

Starykowicz was tested in-competition at the November 2, 2019 IRONMAN® Florida triathlon. Starykowicz's sample resulted in an Adverse Analytical Finding for the prohibited substance vilanterol (an ingredient in the prescription inhaler Breo). Vilanterol is prohibited at all times under IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules (IRONMAN Rules), consistent with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code) and the 2019 World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List.

As a member of the IRONMAN Registered Testing Pool, Starykowicz was required to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) from his National Anti-Doping Agency before using a prohibited substance. Starykowicz applied for a TUE and his application was in process when he began his use of Breo. He did not have an approved TUE when he subsequently competed at both the 2019 IRONMAN 70.3® Waco and 2019 IRONMAN Florida triathlons. The US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) subsequently denied Starykowicz's TUE application. That denial decision was then upheld after review by the World Anti-Doping Agency Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee, and an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). It was Starykowicz's decision and right to contest USADA's denial through these means and in accordance with the USADA Protocol and the WADA Code. The CAS decision and Arbitral Award was issued on August 5, 2020 and is available [at www.usada.org](http://www.usada.org).

IRONMAN first provided Mr. Starykowicz notice of his Adverse Analytical Finding on December 5, 2019, and immediately imposed a Provisional Suspension, which in accordance with the IRONMAN Rules and WADA Code made him ineligible to compete in any events under IRONMAN's jurisdiction. With Starykowicz's challenges to the denial of his TUE, IRONMAN agreed to stay completion of its Results Management Process until the receipt of a decision from CAS related to his TUE appeal.

Following the August 5, 2020 CAS decision, upholding the denial of Starykowicz's TUE application, the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program resumed its case charging that the applicable period of ineligibility for the Anti-Doping Rule Violation should be two years. Further, because WADA was then in the process of considering a change to vilanterol's status on the 2021 Prohibited List, IRONMAN agreed to terminate the period of ineligibility as of January 1, 2021, the effective date of the new WADA Prohibited List, in accordance with the rules if WADA decided to implement that change. (WADA Subsequently published the 2021 List reflecting the changed status of vilanterol before the Starykowicz hearing.)

In addition to the Provisional Suspension from December 5, 2019 and the Period of Ineligibility, IRONMAN asserted additional consequences for Strykovicz's Anti-Doping Rule Violation in accordance with the IRONMAN Rules and the WADA Code, which includes by definition:

- (a) Disqualification of competitive results
- (b) Financial Consequences
- (c) Public Disclosure

Strykovicz was not willing to accept the sanction and consequences of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation as asserted by IRONMAN, and instead requested arbitration with MGSS in accordance with Annex A of the IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules.

The arbitrator concluded that Mr. Strykovicz was unable to establish that he had no significant fault, and set out the following consequences under the IRONMAN Rules and WADA Code:

1. The period of suspension commenced on December 5, 2019, the date on which the Provisional Suspension went into effect, and will end on January 1, 2021
2. The Athlete's results from the 2019 IRONMAN Florida are disqualified, and the Athlete forfeits all medals, points and prizes.
3. The Athlete's results from the 2019 IRONMAN 70.3<sup>®</sup> Waco are disqualified, and the Athlete forfeits all medals, points and prizes, including the loss of a qualifying slot for the 2021 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship.
4. The Athlete will not be allowed to participate in any IRONMAN affiliated events, or events owned or operated by IRONMAN, until the prize money is repaid.
5. The Athlete's results from the 2019 Challenge Daytona are disqualified.
6. The Arbitration costs shall be borne by IRONMAN, with each party bearing its own costs for attorney fees.

The consequences of this anti-doping rule violation go into effect immediately. In accordance with the Article 15 of the Code, WADA Code Signatories and entities other than IRONMAN will give effect to the consequences of this anti-doping rule violation. It will be up to World Triathlon (formally ITU), USA Triathlon, Challenge Family, and the Professional Triathlon Organization to apply the consequences of this anti-doping rule violation in accordance with the WADA Code and their rules.

While this results management process has been extensive, it confirms and demonstrates IRONMAN's commitment to complying with its obligations as a Signatory to the WADA Code and having its anti-doping rules applied as written.

Athletes have both rights and responsibilities under the anti-doping rules. Mr. Strykovicz made choices that resulted in his Anti-Doping Rule Violation, exercised his rights throughout the process, and IRONMAN welcome's the independent determination of the appropriate consequences as explained in the MGSS Arbitrators Award.

Pursuant to the IRONMAN Rules and WADA Code, Mr. Strykovicz has twenty-one days to file an appeal to CAS.

To learn more about the IRONMAN Anti-Doping program, including the WADA Prohibited List and the risks associated with supplement use, visit [www.ironman.com/anti-doping](http://www.ironman.com/anti-doping).

For more information on the IRONMAN brand and global event series, visit [www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com). Media-related inquiries may be sent to [press@ironman.com](mailto:press@ironman.com).

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**About IRONMAN Anti-Doping Program**

As a private corporation conducting triathlon events, IRONMAN was the first private, non-federation sports company to formally adhere to the World Anti-Doping Code. The IRONMAN Anti-Doping Rules are adopted and implemented in conformance with the responsibilities of IRONMAN under the Code and are in furtherance of IRONMAN's continuing efforts to protect and promote clean sport and the integrity of IRONMAN racing. Anti-Doping is a key component of IRONMAN's I AM True™ outreach initiative focused on ensuring that athletes know and understand their rights and responsibilities and the IRONMAN Competition Rules. Downloads of rules, policies and forms, sanctions, as well as educational resources and links are available to all participants and the public through [www.ironman.com/anti-doping](http://www.ironman.com/anti-doping). The WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods is available at [www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list](http://www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list).

### **About The IRONMAN Group**

The IRONMAN Group operates a global portfolio of events that includes the IRONMAN® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® 70.3® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® Virtual Racing™ (VR™) Series, 5150™ Triathlon Series, the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Series®, the Rock 'n' Roll Virtual Running™ Series, IRONKIDS®, ITU World Triathlon Series, premier running events including the Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon™ and The Sun-Herald City2Surf®, Ultra-Trail® World Tour events including Tarawera Ultra and Ultra-Trail Australia™, mountain bike races including the Absa Cape Epic®, road cycling events, and other multisport races. The IRONMAN Group is the largest operator of mass participation sports in the world and provides more than a million participants annually the benefits of endurance sports through the company's vast offerings. Since the inception of the iconic IRONMAN® brand and its first event in 1978, athletes have proven that ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE® by crossing finish lines around the world. Beginning as a single race, The IRONMAN Group has grown to become a global sensation with hundreds of events across 55+ countries. The IRONMAN Group is owned by Advance ([www.advance.com](http://www.advance.com)), a private, family-owned business. For more information, visit [www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com).